

END OF AN ERA

An article in the July 6, 2007 Anchorage Daily News reported on the demolition of the Billik-Inn on Debarr Road. While some were happy to see this seedy landmark go, others were saddened.

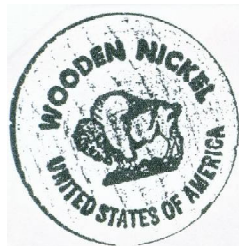
Dave Phillips provides us with a “wooden nickel” review of the Billik-Inn. Illustrations are slightly reduced.



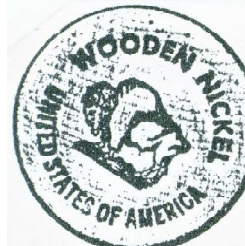
#1 Buffalo, circled with stars, “Untied States of America,” black/black.



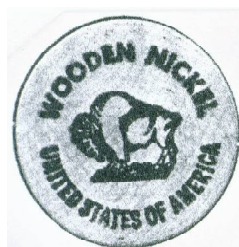
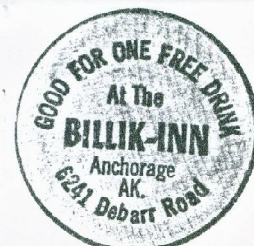
#2 Buffalo, circled w/o stars, “Untied States of America,” black/black.



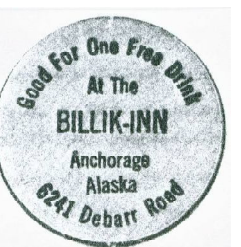
#3 Buffalo, not circled, dark blue/black.



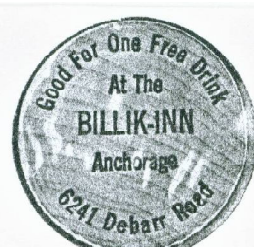
#4 Buffalo, not circled blue/dark blue.



#5 Buffalo, not circled, thin lettering, black/black.



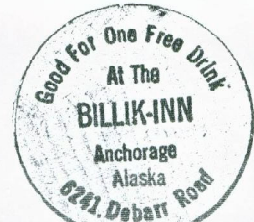
#6 Indian Head, thin lettering, w/o Alaska, black/black.



#7 Indian Head, thick lettering, w/o Alaska, black/black.



#8 Indian Head, thin lettering with Alaska, black/black.



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

One has to wonder what I was thinking when I started this newsletter 29 years ago. This issue begins its 30th year, and frankly, I am amazed that there has been enough information to fill it. Some months have been tough. On occasion I have even resorted to enlarging the type and the spacing between the lines. Some times, large paper items have been used to fill space.

Thirty years is a long time to do anything. So, over the next year, I will be reassessing my commitment to this newsletter. I am not saying I am going to stop publishing. I am not saying that I will continue. I just need to look at it and weigh the pros and cons.

And this being the end of the third decade, I will start printing the pages necessary for the 3rd 10-year volume. The big question on this is who I will get to bind it this time. The local lady that did it in the past is rarely in town anymore. In any case, it will not be cheap, priced at \$150 to \$200. Send no money now. Just let me know if you are interested so that I can print enough copies.

As for the coming months, we are pretty well set with a few lead articles, but can always use space fillers and items for the record. Items from period newspapers and magazines are always interesting. My goal is to keep it at 9 pages, but if I can't fill that, I will drop back to 7 or even 5 pages (remember when this was only 5 pages?).

Thanks for your support. I hope that this year's issues exceeds your expectations.

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PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Anchorage , Joe Flowers, 5¢, B-18aII	195.00OB
Brooks , Mahan & Gillis, B-3a, 25¢	286.76
Chitina , G&G, 12½¢, B-3a	805.00
Cordova , Breedman, 6¼¢, B-5a	57.88
Douglas , Novelty Shop, 6¼¢, B-29a	195.00OB
Egegik , Nakat Pkg., 50¢, B-1d	34.00
Excursion Inlet , set of 4, 5¢ to 50¢, B-1 a-d	53.58
Fairbanks , Masonic Penny, B-33a, different rev.	80.00OB
Haines , Teddy Bear, 10¢ and 25¢, unl.	18.75
Hawk Inlet , Harris, 5¢, B-1a	43.00
Juneau , Juneau Liquor, 12½¢, B-39b	OB125.00NB
Ketchikan , Hotel Connell, 5¢, B-11a	BIN145.00DNS
Ketchikan , Lotus Buffet, 6¼¢, B-31c	OB35.00NB
Ketchikan , Lucky Spot, 25¢, B-32c	46.88
Ketchikan , Quik Lunch, 10¢, B-49unl.	OB199.00NB
Ketchikan , Quik Lunch, 10¢, B-49unl.	RLOB199.00
Ketchikan , Quik Lunch, 12½¢, B-49a	150.00OB
Nome , Arctic, 12½¢, B-4a	33.88
Nome , Circulating Library, 12½¢, B-14aI	255.00
Nome , Nome Novelty, 25¢, B-38aI	OB150.00NB
Nome , Lacey, 12½¢, B-29bI	500.00
Odiak , Storey, B-1a	308.00
Palmer , ARRC, 1¢, B-1a	26.77
Palmer , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	48.00
Palmer , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	51.00
Seldovia , Cash Store, 5¢, B-5a	OB49.99NB
Sitka , Witz, 5¢, B-17a	OB50.00NB
Tanana , Timothy's Place, 25¢, B-10a	1.29RNM
Valdez , Buffet, 12½¢, B-4b	22.99
Valdez , CB Buffet, \$1, B-4cI 2X	RLOB1,308.00NB
Dawson, YT , Tanana Hotel Pool Room, 25¢	300.00OB
AYPE , 1/4 DWT, stickpin	56.00
AYPE , 1/4 DWT	113.50
AYPE , 1/4 DWT	140.50
AYPE , 1/4 DWT	200.00
AYPE , 1/4 DWT, NGC-61	OB250.00NB
AYPE , 1/2 DWT	127.50
AYPE , 1/2 DWT	132.50
AYPE , 1/2 DWT	78.11
AYPE , 1/2 DWT, NGC-61	359.00
AYPE , 1 DWT	199.00OB
AYPE , 1 DWT	201.50
AYPE , 1 DWT	250.00OB
AYPE , set of 3	676.66
Alaska Gold , 2 TooWah	635.00
First National Bank of Fairbanks \$5 Red Seal, 1902	\$42,500.00

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist
 RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve W = withdrawn
 BIN = Buy it now DNS = Did Not Sell

ALASKA SALMON PACKING AND FUR CO.

Excerpted from "Loring", by Patricia Roppel, from the Alaska Journal, Summer 1975.

"By 1883 there were perhaps a few other salteries whose identities have been lost, and there were two salmon canneries in Southeastern Alaska: North Pacific Trading and Packing Company at Klawock (ed. note: B-1) and the Cape Fox Packing Company at Boca de Quadra on the mainland.

So, it was pretty much a pioneering group of men who chose to invest in a fishing establishment in Alaska. And little is known about either them or their company. A stock certificate of the Alaska Salmon Packing and Fur Company gives the date of incorporation as April 20, 1883, and states that the authorized capitalization was \$1,000,000, consisting of 50,000 shares with a par value of \$20 each. The certificate was signed by James J. Green as president and David Wilder as secretary. The "location of works" was listed as Naha Lake, Alaska."

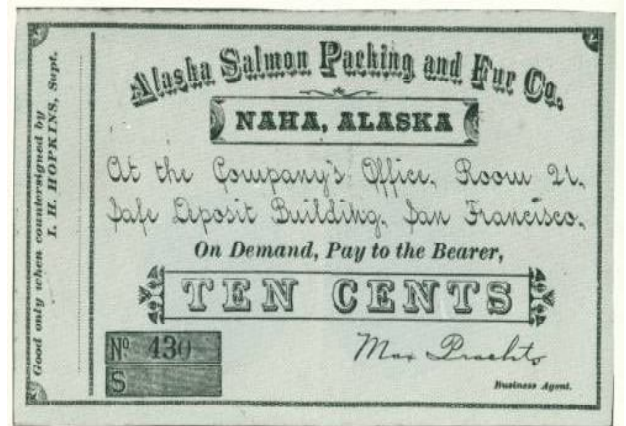


illustration reduced

During its first season the Alaska Salmon Packing and Fur Company put up 338 barrels of salmon and in 1884 the pack was more than 500 barrels.

SALOON TOKENS OF THE UNITED STATES

by Al Erickson

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JIM ROBB'S YUKON PAPER POTPOURRI



(DAWSON): The City Cafe, \$10 meal ticket, W. Thomson, prop., April, 1937. Black on red, 100mm x 60mm. Previously reported without complete details.



WHITEHORSE: The Hougén Centre, Hougén Dollar, good on purchases over \$10, valid through February 1998. Black, white and goldish on light weight card stock, 101mm (illustration reduced).

WHITE PASS & YUKON ROUTE: River steamboat ticket showing all the stops on the river (above right). Used on Str. Klondike and Str. Keno, August 30, 1930. Conditions of use printed on back (below). Black on pink, 73mm by 213 (illustration reduced).

MADE IN U. S. A.

RIVER DIVISION STATIONS No. 225

FORM 284 YEAR 1930

PAID 16.00

WHITE PASS & YUKON ROUTE

THE BRITISH YUKON NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

GOOD FOR ONE COAST AND SECOND CLASS PASSENGER BETWEEN

YUKON DIVISION STATIONS

FROM	TO	FARE	MONTH	DAY	CESTS	DOLLAR
White Horse	1	1.00	1	1	1.00	1.00
Tahkoma River	2	1.00	2	1	2.00	2.00
Upper Laberge	3	1.00	3	1	3.00	3.00
Lower Laberge	4	1.00	4	1	4.00	4.00
Hoatlington	5	1.00	5	1	5.00	5.00
Big Salmon	6	1.00	6	1	6.00	6.00
Little Salmon	7	1.00	7	1	7.00	7.00
Tastakus	8	1.00	8	1	8.00	8.00
Carmack's	9	1.00	9	1	9.00	9.00
Yukon Crossing	10	1.00	10	1	10.00	10.00
Minto	11	1.00	11	1	11.00	11.00
Selkirk	12	1.00	12	1	12.00	12.00
Selwyn	13	1.00	13	1	13.00	13.00
Isaac Creek	14	1.00	14	1	14.00	14.00
Coffin Creek	15	1.00	15	1	15.00	15.00
Kickman Creek	16	1.00	16	1	16.00	16.00
Thistle Creek	17	1.00	17	1	17.00	17.00
White River	18	1.00	18	1	18.00	18.00
Stewart River	19	1.00	19	1	19.00	19.00
Excalibur	20	1.00	20	1	20.00	20.00
Ogilvie	21	1.00	21	1	21.00	21.00
Rotonde	22	1.00	22	1	22.00	22.00
Indian River	23	1.00	23	1	23.00	23.00
Alaska	24	1.00	24	1	24.00	24.00
Swede Creek	25	1.00	25	1	25.00	25.00
Dawson	26	1.00	26	1	26.00	26.00
Harbor Creek	27	1.00	27	1	27.00	27.00
Scroggie	28	1.00	28	1	28.00	28.00
Macleay	29	1.00	29	1	29.00	29.00
Headland	30	1.00	30	1	30.00	30.00
Old Stewart Crossing	31	1.00	31	1	31.00	31.00
Lake Creek	32	1.00	32	1	32.00	32.00
Clear Creek	33	1.00	33	1	33.00	33.00
McQuesten	34	1.00	34	1	34.00	34.00
New Stewart Crossing	35	1.00	35	1	35.00	35.00
Crooked Creek	36	1.00	36	1	36.00	36.00
Mayo	37	1.00	37	1	37.00	37.00
	38	1.00	38	1	38.00	38.00
	39	1.00	39	1	39.00	39.00
	40	1.00	40	1	40.00	40.00

IF Half Fare Punch here X

IF Special Punch here X

IF Going North Punch here X

IF Going South Punch here X

Steamer Voy. No. 12

CONDITIONS

1. Passenger liability is limited to wearing apparel only, not exceeding fifty dollars in value.
2. This ticket will not be honored for passages except on steamer and voyage indicated on face hereof.
3. Should any emergency prevent the steamer from leaving at the appointed time, the steamer, her owners or charterers shall not be held responsible for the inconvenience of passengers for any loss resulting from such delay; and in the case of substitution of steamer the company reserves the right to re-birth the passengers by its agents or proxies.
4. If the purchaser of this ticket cannot for any reason be safely landed at point of destination upon arrival of steamer thereat, he or she may be landed at the next port reached by the steamer upon her voyage at which such landing is made.
5. If purchased half fare this ticket is good only for a child under 12 years old.
6. This ticket is void for passage if any alterations or reissues are made hereon.
7. This ticket is not good unless officially stamped or punched and this contract signed by the purchaser in ink or indelible pencil.

I accept above conditions

PURCHASER

GEOCACHING



This is one of the most interesting geocaching coins we have seen. Personally, I find maps very interesting. If this were just a map, it would be kind of ho-hum. But it is also a “puzzle” of sorts.



When I was a kid, one of my favorite “toys” was a map puzzle of North America. Mexico was just one piece, but the U.S. and Canada were broken into states, provinces and territories. Oddly, I don’t remember Alaska as being part of the map, but I do remember that Canada’s Northwest Territories was broken into the MacKenzie District and the Keewatin District!

Unfortunately, it seems the Geocaching coins are now less about geocaching, and more about making that sale on eBay.

CAPT. COOK BI-CENT.



We have seen the bronze, brass and silver version of this medal noting the bicentennial of Captain Cook’s visit to Cook inlet in 1778, but were quite surprised (and pleased) when Kaye Dethridge put a set on eBay that included an 18kt gold version. Weighing in at 35.1 grams, that is .85 troy ounces of pure gold.

SITKA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



Another “new to us” item was this medal set. Kaye Dethridge describes it as “Silver and bronze, 39mm medals issued in 1988 to commemorate the dedication of the Russian Bishop’s House by the National Park Service in Sitka, Alaska. This 1842 building in Sitka was restored by the National Park Service and now is part of Sitka National Historical Park.”

Ed. Note: It is has been a good month for discoveries of modern items.



ANCHOR-AGE: Courthouse Jury Parking Coupon. Black on cream paper, red serial number, 132 x 51mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).

MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



EIELSON AFB: Airman Leadership School. Red, white, dark blue, light blue, green and yellow on bronze.



FT. GREELY: U.S. Army, This we'll defend. Blue, white, red and yellow on bronze.



EIELSON AFB: Arctic Ammo, It will suck the life out of you. Light blue, red, yellow and black on bronze, 40mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ANCHORAGE: University of Alaska Anchorage Air Force ROTC. Blue and yellow on bronze, 39mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



EIELSON AFB: Arctic Warriors, Top Three. Black and yellow on bronze.



JUNEAU: Civil Air Patrol, 2006, Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, Respect. Blue and red on silver colored metal.



EIELSON AFB: 354th Mission Support Squadron, Presented by the Commander. Blue, white, yellow and orange on silver colored metal, 45mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



GRINDIVIK, ICELAND: Presented by the mayor, only 100 made. Quite attractive with light blue, medium blue, black, yellow and gray on silver colored metal.

FOR THE RECORD



ANCHORAGE: Robert Hall, Numismatist. Two designs: Morgan Dollar (cupronickel) and 1793 Large Cent (copper). Both 27mm. Minted by the Patrick Mint.



NENANA: Two Choice Cafe, "Take it or Leave it." Good for 1 cup of coffee. Black on wood.



FAIRBANKS: Fairbanks Community Food Bank Service. Blue on wood.



TONSINA: Tonsina River Lodge, good for one beer. Black on wood.



FAIRBANKS: Silver Gulch Brewing and Bottling Co., Good for one beer. Silver Gulch restaurant is actually in Fox. Black (or was it green) on wood.



KETCHIKAN: Ravens Roost, good for a drink. Silver on red plastic, 38mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).

ALASKA: Alaska School Activities Association, award medal (this one engraved on the back for cross country running), bronze with yellow and red ribbon, 51mm. (shown in right column).



THIS MONTH'S SALE ITEMS

With the dramatic rise in gold and silver prices, we have seen an increase in the number of Franklin Mint and other sets and singles being sold into the bullion market. Because we are just great guys, looking for a quick buck, we pull any and all items relating to Alaska and the polar regions. We think that these items are priced fairly with silver just below \$16 per ounce as I type this. On most items, we only have one in stock, so a phone call or email to hold it for you would be advisable.

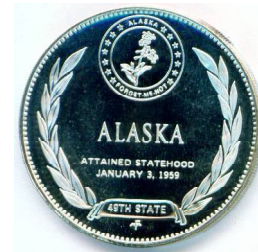


From the Franklin Mint 200 year history of the United States we have: 1867: Alaska Purchased from Russia; 1897: Gold Seekers head for the Klondike; and 1959: Alaska and Hawaii admitted to the Union (unfortunately with a Hawaiian scene). These are sterling silver, and contain 1.23 ounces of pure silver. \$22.50 each.



Two more items from the 200 year history of the United States. These are polar related. 1840: Wilkes Expedition reaches the Antarctic; and 1909: The race to the North Pole. These also are sterling and have 1.23 ounces of pure silver. \$22.50 each.

From the Franklin Mint "50 States of the Union," this medal is sterling and contains .43 ounces of pure silver. A very nice dog team on map design! Only \$8.00



This is one of our favorite Alaska medals. So many were made, they seem to be in every collection we purchase but we never have them in abundance. These are pure silver and weigh just over one ounce - but that might be because of the gold in the pan. This medal is \$25.

We also have the copper version with gold for \$15 and without gold for \$10.

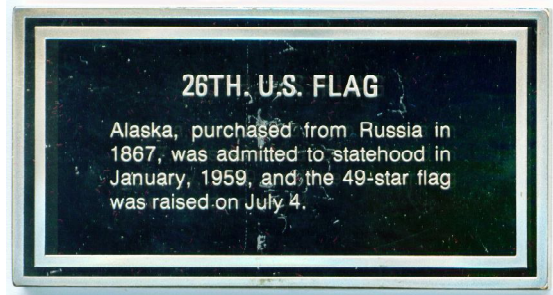
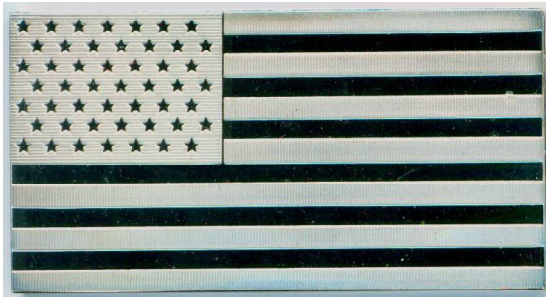
THIS MONTH'S SALE ITEMS



This is a Franklin Mint product we had not seen before. This set was made up of Flags of the United States.

The Flag of the Russian Empire was a bit of a disappointment. One would expect a

double headed eagle. Struck in sterling silver, it contains 2.21 ounces of pure silver and is priced at \$39.



The 26th U.S. Flag is the 49-Star flag flown for the first time on July 4, 1959. It was in use for only a short time, replaced by the 50-star flag when Hawaii was admitted to the union. Struck in sterling silver, this piece contains 2.73 ounces of pure silver and is priced at \$49 (how convenient).



Yes, bank ingots, again... We usually only see the 1970 Alaska National Bank of Fairbanks, but this round of silver purchases brought in the 1972 First National Bank of Anchorage, and 1973 National Bank of Alaska. All are 1000 grains of sterling silver, resulting in 1.92 ounces of pure silver. They are priced at \$35 each.



Now here is an odd duck. In 1984 there were more than a dozen different 1 ounce silver medals to commemorate the 25th anniversary of statehood. This piece was the only 1/2 ounce issued. We believe it originated out of the Juneau area. These were not a recent purchase. We have found several around the store priced at \$12 to \$15. Using our precise formula for pricing our other items, these are priced at \$9.

And last but not least, the National Commemorative Society issue for the Alaska Purchase Centennial, 1967. It is unmarked, but presumably sterling silver. Presuming we are correct, it contains about .80 ounces of pure silver. The design is really neat, with a portrait of Seward superimposed on a map of Alaska, while the reverse contrasts a totem pole with communication towers. This is priced at \$14.50



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